

***SECRETARY OF STATE***  
***JAY DARDENNE***

Jay Dardenne was sworn in as secretary of state on Nov. 10, 2006, ending a 15-year career in the Louisiana Senate. During his legislative service, Secretary Dardenne chaired the Senate Finance Committee and authored legislation creating the single Board of Ethics and the Community and Technical College System. He also authored the constitutional amendments establishing victims' rights and providing funding sources to fight coastal erosion.

In 2003, he was named National Republican Legislator of the Year. He is an active community volunteer, having hosted the Jerry Lewis Telethon for the Muscular Dystrophy Association for more than 25 years. He served for two years on the MDA National Board of Directors. In addition, Secretary Dardenne chaired the Local Organizing Committee for the National Senior Olympics and received the Community Leadership Award from Leadership Greater Baton Rouge.

Secretary Dardenne conducts a presentation entitled "Why Louisiana Ain't Mississippi," a lively and colorful look at Louisiana's culture, demography, history, music and politics.

Secretary Dardenne is an attorney and a graduate of Baton Rouge High School, Louisiana State University and the LSU Law Center.

The 52-year-old Dardenne is married to the former Cathy McDonald. They have two sons, John, 22, and Matthew, 20.